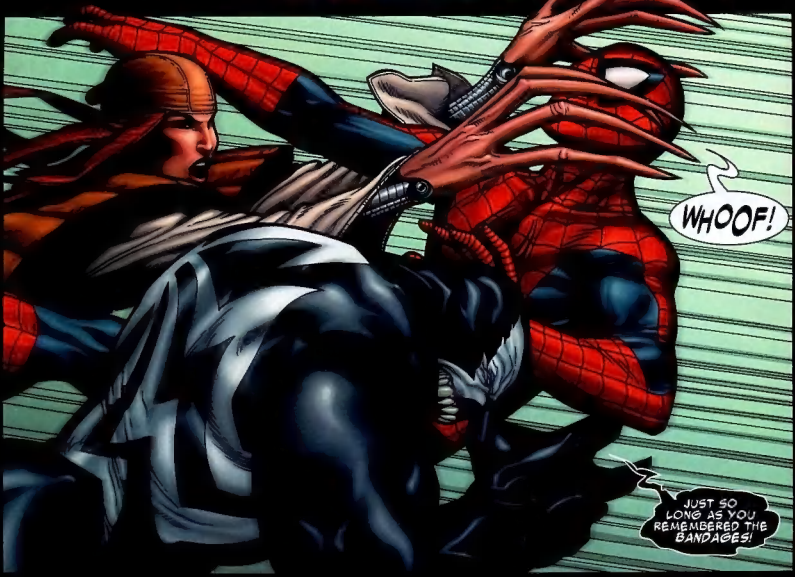
WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT? I THOUGHT OUR SIDE WAS THE AVENGERS.
UGH!
C'MON, HURRY UP!
I'M FINISHED! IT'S DONE! THE GATEWAY BACK TO RYKER'S LOCKS IN T-MINUS FIVE SECONDS...

ARE WE TOO LATE?
NO SUCH THING, DAGGER. RYKER'S WAS THE OFFICIAL DOORWAY FROM THE NEGATIVE ZONE, BUT THERE'S STILL ONE MORE IF I CAN REMEMBER THAT SIXTY-NINE-DIGIT CODE...

I'M ALL TICKED OFF AND I BROUGHT MY CAN-OPENER, SHELL-HEAD!
SPIDER-MAN!


WHOOF!
JUST SO LONG AS YOU REMEMBERED THE BANDAGES!

BLACK PANTHER'S OVERRIDING OUR SYSTEM, COMMANDER HILL! PROGRAM SAYS HE'S REROUTING THEIR BRIDGE TO THE BAXTER BUILDING!
CLOSE IT DOWN! NOW! THEY ESCAPE AND IT'S YOUR HEAD, DUBLONSKY!
THEY'RE ONTO US! THEY'RE CLOSING REED'S PORTAL! WE'VE GOT TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING!
CLOAK, IT'S ME. WE NEED THE BIGGEST TELEPORT YOU'VE EVER PULLED. T'CHALLA'S SENDING THE COORDINATES.
I CAN'T. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS. THERE MUST BE A HUNDRED PEOPLE HERE--
YOU EITHER PULL THIS OFF OR WE'RE STUCK IN HERE FOREVER, TYRONE! DO IT!
I WILL TRY...
WHAT THE HELL?!
OH, GOD. TELL ME THAT ISN'T CLOAK!

OUTSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING, NEW YORK:
ALL THE FLYERS, GRAB A FRIEND!
NOW!

THAT'S FOR SCREWING UP THE PLAN, CREEP!
IRON MAN TO ALL POINTS: EVACUATE THE AREA AND CONTAIN THE FIGHT TO MIDTOWN! I WANT NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES! YOU HEAR ME? NO CIVILIAN CASUALTIES!
YOU THINK I'M STUPID, SON?
UNGH!
EVERYBODY THIS WAY! NICE AND CALM! YOU FOLKS TAKE YOUR TIME AND NOBODY'S GONNA GET HURT!

UNGH!
HUFF!
UGH!
AGH!
AMAZING.
SPECTACULAR.
WHERE'S CAP? SOMEBODY FIND CAPTAIN AMERICA! HE'S TOO DANGEROUS TO BE LEFT OUT THERE UNCHECKED!

DOESN'T LOOK TOO DANGEROUS TO ME!
ME NEITHER!
UNH!
MAN, IS THIS THE LIVING LEGEND OF WORLD WAR TWO? WHO WAS HE FIGHTING? BING CROSBY?
WHAT'S SO FUNNY, CAPTAIN? YOU LIKE OUR LITTLE JOKES? YOU SHARE BULLSEYE'S SENSE OF HUMOR?
NO, I'M JUST THINKING ABOUT MY PAL UP THERE KICKING YOUR BUTTS INTO NEXT WEEK...
WHAT?

IMPERIUS REX!

YOU AND ME AGAIN, CAP. JUST LIKE LAST TIME. LET'S HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO PUT YOU THROUGH ALL THAT PAIN AGAIN, HUH?
WELL, THINGS ARE A LITTLE DIFFERENT THIS TIME, TONY...
VISION...
AAAGGHH!
IRON MAN'S ARMOR IS COMPROMISED, CAPTAIN.

NOW I'M FIGHTING DIRTY.
UNGH!
IRON MAN!
THOU SHOULDST FEAR FOR THYSELF, MONSTER!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME--?

BEN?!
YA REALLY THINK I WUZ GONNA SIT THIS ONE OUT EATIN' CROISSANTS? GET YOUR ACT TOGETHER, SUZIE! WE GOT PEOPLE TA PROTECT!
SORRY. NOT IN MY JOB DESCRIPTION...
SUSAN! LOOK OUT!
REED!
AW, MAN...
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY HUSBAND?

OKAY. THIS ISN'T GOOD.
HOW DAREST THOU WEAR THE FLESH OF THE ODINSON?! I SLAIN THOR...THOR WAS A *FRIEND* OF MINE...
AND YOU *KNOW* SOMETHING, IMPOSTOR?

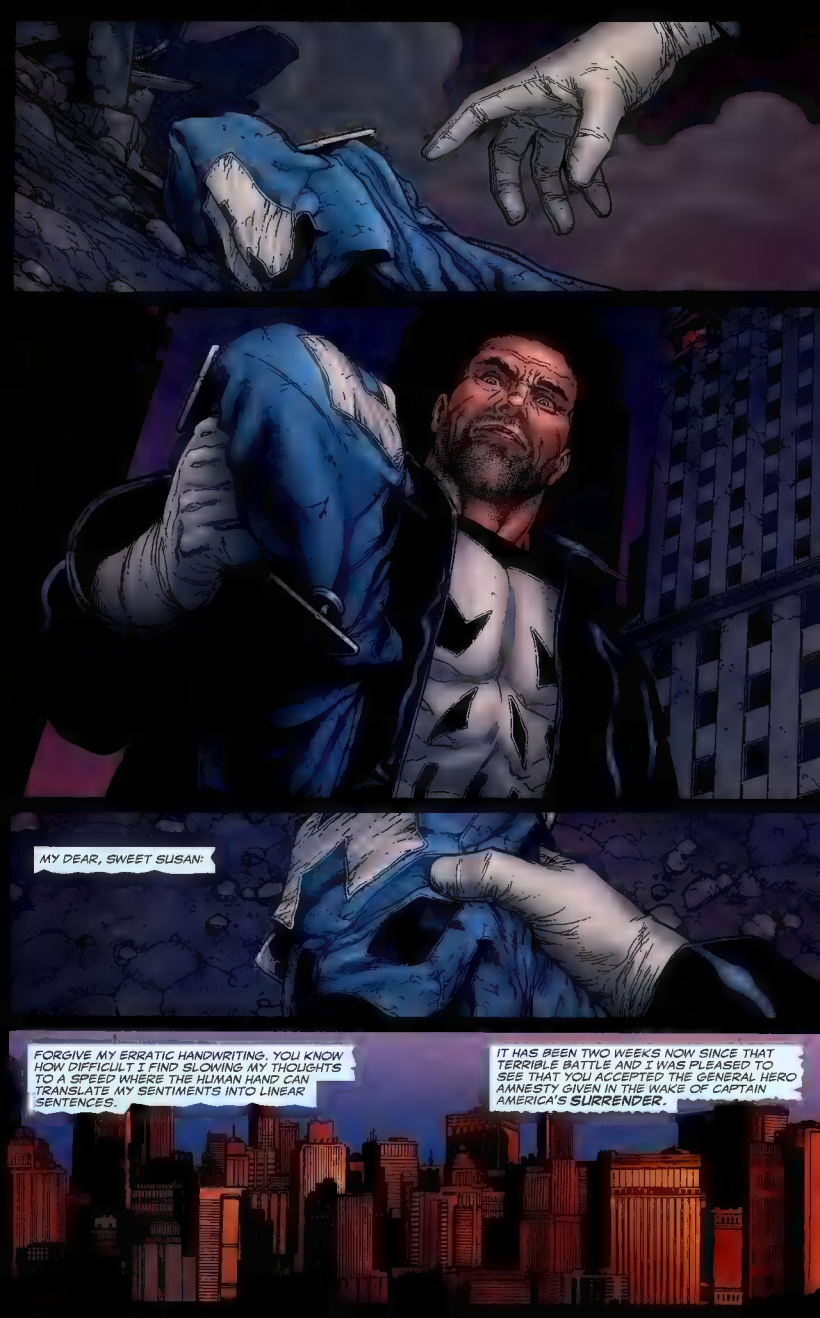
THOU ART NO THOR!

HNNK!
HAKK!
UNGH!
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, STEVE?
FINISH IT.

HURKH!
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM HIM!
HOLD HIM DOWN! HOLD HIM DOWN!
WHAT IN GOD'S NAME...?
LET ME GO! PLEASE, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
DON'T WANT TO HURT US? ARE YOU TRYING TO BE FUNNY?
IT'S A LITTLE LATE FOR THAT, MAN!

NOW RENTING
OH MY GOD.
WHAT'S WRONG?
THEY'RE RIGHT. WE'RE NOT FIGHTING FOR THE PEOPLE ANYMORE, FALCON...
LOOK AT US.
WE'RE JUST FIGHTING.

CAP, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THEY'LL THROW US IN JAIL IF YOU SURRENDER.
[redacted] BEATING THEM, MAN. [redacted] WINNING BACK THERE.
EVERYTHING EXCEPT THE ARGUMENT.
AND THEY'RE NOT ARRESTING CAPTAIN AMERICA...
...THEY'RE ARRESTING STEVE ROGERS. THAT'S A VERY DIFFERENT THING.
CAP, PLEASE!
STAND DOWN, TROOPS...


MY DEAR, SWEET SUSAN:
FORGIVE MY ERRATIC HANDWRITING. YOU KNOW HOW DIFFICULT I FIND SLOWING MY THOUGHTS TO A SPEED WHERE THE HUMAN HAND CAN TRANSLATE MY SENTIMENTS INTO LINEAR SENTENCES.
IT HAS BEEN TWO WEEKS NOW SINCE THAT TERRIBLE BATTLE AND I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT YOU ACCEPTED THE GENERAL HERO AMNESTY GIVEN IN THE WAKE OF CAPTAIN AMERICA'S SURRENDER.

I SAW YOU DURING THE CLEANUP, BUT FELT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO DISCUSS OUR FUTURE WHILE OUR ADRENAL GLANDS MIGHT STILL IMPAIR OUR JUDGMENT IN ROMANTIC MATTERS.
YOU LOOKED SO BEAUTIFUL. SO VIBRANT AND CLEAR-EYED. I CRIED FOR A FULL NINETY-THREE MINUTES WHEN I RETURNED HOME THAT NIGHT.
FDNY FDN
BY NOW, YOU WILL HAVE SEEN THE LAUNCH OF THE INITIATIVE...
...AT LEAST ONE SUPER-TEAM IN EVERY U.S. STATE.
I'M SURE YOU CAN APPRECIATE THE PRESSURE WE WERE UNDER...
...CREATING NEW HEROES, REVAMPING OLD ONES...
...DECENTRALIZING THIS COMMUNITY FROM A SINGLE COAST AND BUILDING A SUPER-POWER FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

EVEN OUR CONTROVERSIAL PRISON IN THE NEGATIVE ZONE WAS MET WITH RAPTUROUS APPLAUSE WHEN WE FINALLY WENT PUBLIC.
HOW FRIGHTENING THE WORLD MUST HAVE SEEMED BEFORE THIS: VIGILANTES, AMATEURS, SUPER-VILLAINS BROODING IN CELLS THAT NEVER SEEMED TO HOLD THEM.
THE ONLY SURPRISE IS HOW WE WERE TOLERATED FOR AS LONG AS WE WERE.
OF COURSE, IT WOULD BE A LIE TO SUGGEST THAT EVERYONE IS HAPPY WITH OUR NEW ARRANGEMENT.
SOME HAVE MOVED TO CANADA IN THE HOPE OF A MORE OLD-SCHOOL CAREER...
...WHILE A SMALL BAND OF CAP'S FOLLOWERS REMAIN RADICALIZED IN THE UNDERGROUND MOVEMENT.
DIG THE OUTFIT, MAN.
THANKS.
NOT TO MENTION CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF...

BUT ON THE WHOLE OUR EXPERIMENT HAS BEEN AN ENORMOUS SUCCESS. WHAT ONCE SEEMED LIKE OUR DARKEST HOUR HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY.
HANK PYM: MAN OF THE YEAR ON HIS GLOBAL REVOLUTION.
WORKING WITH THE GOVERNMENT, OUR REMIT HAS MOVED BEYOND SIMPLY LAW AND ORDER AND WE'RE NOW TACKLING EVERYTHING FROM THE ENVIRONMENT TO GLOBAL POVERTY...
...TONY IN PARTICULAR.
CAN YOU BELIEVE THE NEW JOB THE PRESIDENT HAS HANDED HIM?
BUT THE OPINION POLLS AND UTOPIAN IDEALS MEAN NOTHING UNLESS YOU'RE HERE BESIDE ME, MY DARLING.
I PROMISE: NO MORE TRAPS. NO MORE CLONES. NONE OF THOSE PAINFUL THINGS WE HAD TO DO ON THAT PATH TO RESPECTABILITY.
NO MATTER WHAT WE ACHIEVE IN THIS NEW AMERICA WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE...IT CAN NEVER BE HEAVEN UNLESS YOU'RE HERE TOO.
PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK TO THE FAMILY WHO NEEDS YOU MORE THAN OXYGEN.

THE S.H.I.E.L.D. HELICARRIER, FIVE MILES OVER NEW YORK CITY:
DIRECTOR OF S.H.I.E.L.D.?
WHY NOT, MRS. SHARPE? AS A MAN WITH CLOSE LINKS TO BOTH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SUPERHUMAN COMMUNITY, I THINK IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE, IF NICK FURY'S STILL AMONG THE MISSING.
UH, COULD WE HAVE A COUPLE OF *COFFEES* OVER HERE, PLEASE, *DEPUTY* COMMANDER HILL? CREAM AND PLENTY OF SUGAR?

KRYPTONIA

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